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# *Daily Report*

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# **Sub-Saharan Africa**

**FBIS-AFR-96-085**  
**Wednesday**  
**1 May 1996**

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# Daily Report

## Sub-Saharan Africa

FBIS-AFR-96-085

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**Inter-African Affairs: Human Rights Roundup —****28 Feb-29 Apr****AB2904082096**

[FBIS Report] The following is a roundup of recent human rights reports from Sub-Saharan Africa Media from 28 February to 29 April.

**COTE D'IVOIRE**

The Committee for the Protection of Journalists [CPJ], recently published a report on violations of freedom of the press throughout the world in 1995. Cote d'Ivoire is among the countries where freedom of the press is a problem. This does not come as a surprise: "Cote d'Ivoire is cited among the countries of the world where restrictions imposed on freedom of the press and the imprisonment of journalists constitute a problem."

The CPJ has written down the names of "Cote d'Ivoire, Chad, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, and The Gambia, on its list on black African countries where the concept of freedom of the press is unknown." This is not a surprise when one knows that trials of journalists "for libel is very common in Cote d'Ivoire." The rights of journalists of the private media are very often violated. "When not arrested, tortured, or sent to jail, journalists received written or oral threats."

"Since the coming to power of President Henri Konan Bedie, 15 firm prison sentence verdicts have been handed down against journalists. Cote d'Ivoire is the country where journalists are so eagerly sent to jail." It should also be pointed out that the new "draft bill on the press prepared by the Ivorian minister of justice is not only threatening journalists but also the entire media enterprise."

The freedom of the press poses the problem of freedom itself. There cannot be freedom without democracy.

**GHANA**

Accra Ghana Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in English at 1300 GMT on 1 March reports that an inspection tour of the country's prisons and police cells by the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice has exposed shortcomings and inadequacies in the administration of justice in the country. According to the radio report, the commission's report says that the inadequacies involve the police, the judiciary, the bar, and partly the prison's administration. It adds that this state of affairs is manifested in the congestion noted in the prisons visited, particularly the Nsawam and James Fort prisons, and the poor conditions resulting from a number of issues. These are the inability of the courts to expedite the trial of suspects who have been remanded in prison custody and the incarceration and committal

into adult prisons of teenagers under the age of 18 who should be at the Bostol institutions. Others are the indefinite holding of condemned prisoners under scrutinizing and mentally torturous conditions in congested cells and the long period it takes the judiciary to consider applications for appeals from convicts. The rest are the conviction and committal into prison of pregnant women who invariably give birth in prison and the poor working conditions of prison officials.

The commission has, therefore, made a number of recommendations to correct the situation. On too many suspects in prison custody on remand, the report recommends that the judiciary, in conjunction with the attorney general's department and perhaps the Ghana Bar Association, should organize a crash program to have the many outstanding cases heard or tried as soon as possible. The commission is glad to know that the Ministry of Employment and Social Welfare has ordered the transfer of all the juveniles and young persons found in prisons throughout the country during its inspection exercise to the country's Bostol institutions. The report says: "The commission abhors the situation where pregnant women are sentenced to prison terms and deliver while serving their jail terms," adding: "suspended sentences will be more appropriate in such situations." The commission also hopes that with the adoption of such non-custodial measures, pregnant women and nursing mothers may be spared imprisonment and their babies may escape the hazards of prison life. The report further urges the judiciary to address the anomaly of the courts' inability to deduct time already spent in prison remand from the final jail term.

The report notes: "Conditions in the majority of police cells leave much to be desired." It therefore calls on the police authorities to give immediate attention to those facilities. It also calls on them to enforce to the best of their ability the rule which enjoins them to grant bail to suspects within 48 hours, especially those in the rural areas.

London BBC World Service in English at 1705 GMT on 19 Mar reports that Ghana's Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice has published a report which is highly critical of the country's overcrowded prison system. The radio adds that the report is the result of an enquiry headed by Justice Emile Short, the human rights commissioner. His team inspected about 90 percent of the prisons as well as cells in police stations.

In an interview with correspondent Khdry Ahmed, Justice Short said: "Our main findings were the long delay in the trial of suspects. In other words, many people have been remanded in prison custody for an

unreasonable length of time." "And, also, there was inadequate feeding allowance for prisoners, which in some cases has resulted in malnutrition of some of the prisoners." Asked whether this condition was common for almost all the prisoners in the various prisoners, he said that concerning the delay in the trial of suspects, this is common to most prisons. They also found out that facilities vary from prison to prison. Another problem was the incarceration of juveniles with adult prisoners, but this was found in just a few prisons in Accra; they did not find that in prisons in the other regions.

On the concerns expressed to them by inmates during the enquiry, Justice Short said: "One of our findings was that, there are quite a number of prisoners who had been sentenced to death, but their sentences had not been implemented for periods ranging from one to 12 years, and they were very much concerned about the uncertainty surrounding the execution of their sentence."

On what they hope to achieve with this report, he said that they have forwarded the report to the appropriate authorities including the police, the prisons, the Ministry of Interior, and the attorney general's office. They are hoping that the authorities will take adequate steps to remedy these lapses. If after a certain time, no steps are taken, then they might also consider taking steps to remedy those that they think they are in a position to do something about. For example, suspects who have been in custody for an unreasonable length of time, they could take action in court to either seek their immediate release on bail or to have their cases tried expeditiously. With regard to those who are on death row for a considerable length of time, they have suggested that their sentences should be commuted to life imprisonment so that they would be able to enjoy the other facilities which normal prisoners enjoy.

#### SENEGAL

London BBC World Service in English at 0630 GMT on 28 February reports that the Senegalese Government and

separatist rebels in the troubled region of Casamance have been accused of human rights abuses in a report published this morning by Amnesty International. The abuses include torture, lengthy detention without trial, and summary killings, the report adds. Correspondent Joe Winter in Dakar, the Senegalese capital, says: "The report refers to the widespread use of torture in Senegal, the detention without trial of hundreds of people in Casamance, and arbitrary executions by the Senegalese Army." He further says that the Movement of Casamance Democratic Forces rebels do not escape condemnation however, adding: "Amnesty International accuses them of murdering in cold blood those villagers who refuse to supply them with further money or who they suspect of collaborating with the authorities." Winter also adds that the report mentions the alleged existence of two mass graves in Casamance as well as the so-called disappearance of 11 people, last seen in Army hands.

The human rights organization deplores the decision of the Senegalese Government not to attend the November 1995 session of the United Nations Committee Against Torture. It also urges that country to explain the measures it will take to put an end to such practices and to attend the next session in April.

The correspondent adds that the report further says: "Nearly 200 suspected sympathizers of the separatist movement have spent the last 10 months in jail without being charged." Many of these prisoners of conscience did not participate in any acts of violence and should be released immediately and unconditionally, it further says. The Senegalese authorities have refused to properly investigate the allegations of torture in order to punish those responsible or compensate the victims. They point to a general pardon which prevents prosecution relating to the Casamance conflict, but Amnesty International considers it unacceptable, saying it is immunity to those who perpetrate human rights violation.

### Burundi

#### Burundi: Butrus-Ghali Urges End to Violence

*EA3004201196 Nairobi Kenya Broadcasting Corporation Network in English 1600 GMT 30 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, who is on an official visit to the country, today made an urgent appeal for an end to escalating violence in Burundi and strengthened dialogue there.

A UN statement to the press said the secretary general gave two urgent messages to Marc Faguy, his embattled special representative in Burundi, to be delivered to Hutu President Sylvestre Ntibantunganya and Tutsi Prime Minister Antoine Nduwayo. The statement added that Faguy briefed Butrus-Ghali on the situation in the central African country and on the recent inconclusive talks in Tanzania between the Tutsi-dominated Unity for National Progress, Uprona, and the Front for Democracy in burundi, Frodebu.

### Central African Republic

#### CAR: Patasse Accuses Opposition of 'Manipulating the Army'

*AB3004193396 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 30 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Ange-Felix Patasse of the Central African Republic [CAR] has joined his home affairs minister in pointing a finger at the opposition over the army mutiny which ended last week. Although the authorities are still to come out with hard evidence for their suspicions, they imposed a ban on all political activity which was only repealed last night when the president accused his opponents, including his predecessor, of manipulating the Armed Forces. Our Bangui correspondent Joseph Benamsse telexed this report:

In a statement broadcast on national radio last night, President Patasse expressed exasperation with the opposition and accused them of manipulating the Army. Patasse declared that investigations had already begun to find out who is behind the recent army mutiny, adding that any person or political party found guilty of having a hand in the uprising would face trial. Although Patasse did not single out any specific individual, his words were clearly aimed at former President Andre Kolingba since he claimed that it is those who mismanaged the country a few years ago who are not inciting people to violence. President Patasse's speech was aired as French troops deployed around the national radio and television station, the Presidential Palace, and other strategic

institutions during the mutiny finally began returning to their barracks.

Meanwhile, Bangui University remained paralyzed today as lecturers boycotted classes for the second successive day. The lecturers are demanding the immediate payment of salary arrears stretching back to January as well as the settlement of arrears accumulated under the former regime of President Kolingba. In a letter to the education secretary, they made it clear that this current seven-day strike would be extended if their demands were not met. And it is not just teachers that are angry. Civil servants throughout the country are unhappy that the government, whilst agreeing to pay soldiers three months of arrears, has decided to pay everyone else only one month's arrears. According to medical sources, health department employees will begin a strike tomorrow, unless the government agrees to treat all civil servants equally.

### Rwanda

#### Rwanda: Crimes Tribunal Prosecutor Views Talks With Leaders

*EA3004160096 Kigali Radio Rwanda in English 0515 GMT 30 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The chief prosecutor for the international crimes tribunal in Rwanda, Judge Richard Goldstone, yesterday held talks with top Rwandan government officials including the president of the Republic, Pasteur Bizimungu, the vice president and defense minister Major General Paul Kagame, the Prime Minister Pierre-Celestin Rwigyema and the Justice Minister [Marthe] Mukamurenzi. After the meeting Judge Richard Goldstone talked to Radio Rwanda and he talks about what they discussed about:

[Begin recording] [Goldstone] So we have had a meeting with the president and the vice president, the minister of foreign affairs, and the minister of justice, and we discussed future cooperation between the office of the prosecutor and the international tribunal generally and the government and people of Rwanda. And it has been a fruitful and friendly discussion and we will be issuing a short press statement during the course of the day.

[Unidentified correspondent] We would like to know the progress so far of the tribunal.

[Goldstone] Oh, I see, the first accused will appear in the international tribunal in Arusha in the last week of next month of May and the trials will begin as soon as the defense is ready and that we anticipate will be in July.

[Correspondent] You have talked about the problems of personnel and problems of financing. What is the position now?

[Goldstone] Well the position is we are not out of the woods yet. We still have problems and the 1996 budget has still not been approved by the General Assembly of the UN, but we are getting more resources and not only from the UN but with the assistance of member states, and particularly the Netherlands and the United States.

[Correspondent] What about the suspects of genocide who live in various countries, do you expect more cooperation from these countries harboring suspects of genocide?

[Goldstone] Yes, the indications are that we are going to get cooperation and, certainly in international law, it is the obligation of that country to give us every assistance and I am optimistic that we will get that assistance. And we are grateful in that respect to countries like Zambia and Cameroon in particular, and Belgium. [end recording]

#### Rwanda: RDR Spokesman Denies Involvement in Attack in Uganda

*AB3004170796 London BBC World Service in English 1505 GMT 30 Apr 96*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Rwandan exiled opposition group, the RDR [Rally for Democracy and the Return of Refugees to Rwanda] has responded today to reports that it was behind the border incursion into southwestern Uganda last week. But first it was said their attack on (?Kisoro) was carried out by Ugandan rebels based in Zaire. But the Ugandan Defense Ministry later blamed it on the Rwandan rebels in search of arms. Well tonight, we got a call from the RDR spokesman, Christian Zumbadunra, in Nairobi. On the line, Robin White asked him if they have been behind the incursion.

[Begin recording] [Zumbadunra] You know, it was a very misleading statement from the Ministry of Defense of Uganda because as far as we are concerned, we didn't have anything to do with what happened in (?Kisoro). Reliable information from Zaire indicates that the raid was carried out by Ugandan rebel movements.

[White] Why did they think it was you?

[Zumbadunra] You know, it is part of a wide campaign of demonizing Rwandese refugees.

[White] So you had nothing to do with this attack on Uganda at all?

[Zumbadunra] We don't have anything to do at all with what happened in Uganda. It was an internal matter.

[White] Do you think that a lot of Rwandans, Hutu Rwandans, have a grudge against Museveni because of the way he supported the RPF [Rwandan Patriotic Front] during their struggle?

[Zumbadunra] I do think that they would, and you know, they would be right to do so because of his involvement in whatever happened in Rwanda. But that would not be construed to mean that they would be tempted to go and destabilize Uganda because they would be creating enough problems for themselves. [end recording]

#### Zaire

##### Zaire: Belgium To Become Isolated in Relations With Mobutu

*BR3004152096 Brussels LE SOIR in French 30 Apr - 1 May 96 p 9*

[Article by Colette Braeckman: "Mobutu Returns Thanks to Refugees"]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Mobutu's "private" visit to Paris, where he was received by French President Chirac and talked with the press and guests of the Diplomatic Academy, was the culmination of a slow political rehabilitation, prompted by the situation in Africa's Great Lakes region.

More than a million Rwandan refugees are still in Kivu province, and despite the growing hostility of the Zairian population they are not ready to return to their country following the threats of expulsion by Zairian Prime Minister Kengo wa Dondo. These refugees feel protected by the head of state who, invoking humanitarian grounds, has intervened on repeated occasions to interrupt repatriation operations or to withdraw ultimatums.

The Rwandan refugees and, to a lesser extent, Burundi's Hutus, are at present the principal diplomatic asset of the Zairian head of state. His return to grace in France began when Zaire was chosen as the base for launching Operation Turquoise in June 1994. Supposedly a humanitarian operation, this in fact opened the door to Zaire for the political and military apparatus behind the genocide.

That summer, Mobutu's agreement was negotiated by Jacques Foccart himself on the occasion of one of these parallel contacts to which French diplomacy often holds the secret. President Mobutu then made his return to the international stage and was invited to the France-Africa summit in Biarritz (to which Rwanda was not invited), to the Copenhagen social summit, and to the

summit of French-speaking nations in Cotonou. U.S. diplomacy, albeit on the quiet, also contributed toward his rehabilitation, as former President Carter invited the Zairian president to two summits of African leaders of the Great Lakes region, in Caire and Tunis, which were catalogues of good intentions more than anything else.

It is an unavoidable fact that one of the keys to stability, or alternatively destabilization, in Africa's Great Lakes region lies in Gbadolite: Whatever he says, it is President Mobutu who authorizes the training of Rwandan militias seeking to return to the offensive and of the "Hutu fighters" with their headquarters in Uvira and Bukavu.

France, pragmatically, would like to strengthen the Paris-Kinshasa axis and, with Mobutu's support, internationalize the problem and hold a conference under the aegis of the OAU or the United Nations, which Kigali sees as an attempt to exercise control. Belgium on the other hand favors the more discreet mediation of former Tanzanian President Nyerere who is counting on bilateral contacts and a regional approach.

At the present stage, in seeking to maintain President Mobutu's isolation, Belgium finds itself isolated from its partners who are more adept at political realism than upholding major democratic principles....

But the fact remains that the arms supplies which are continuing to get through to former Rwandan soldiers, who have formed an alliance with the Hutu insurgents in Burundi are a cause of increasing concern to the United States which, through its ambassador to the United Nations, has insisted on the need to immediately stop these consignments and continue the international inquiry into violations of the embargo. The indulgence shown toward Rwandan and Burundian extremists threatens to destabilize Kivu: Zairian Tutsis are being driven out of the Masisi region and near Bukavu the Banyamulende, farmers with Rwandan roots, are also the victim of ethnic cleansing. Their herds are slaughtered and for \$50 the soldiers take them to the Rwandan border....

**Kenya****Kenya: Government Report Says Human Rights Record Satisfactory**

*EA0105101796 Nairobi DAILY NATION in English 1 May 96 p1*

[Article by Caleb Atemi: "Our Human Rights Record is Fine, Says Government Report"]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The local human rights situation is satisfactory and the government is determined to improve it, says an official report released yesterday in response to accusations of human rights abuses.

The report, a response to the October-December 1995 Kenya Human Rights Commission [KHRC] report, dismisses the KHRC quarterly reports as unprofessional and mediocre catalogues of criminal incidents.

"A similar exercise with respect to any country with a bigger population than Kenya would, for instance, produce voluminous reports running into thousands of pages", says the government report: "human rights situation in Kenya, the way it is."

It says that although the government receives many human rights reports, the KHRC ones were the most unprofessional. [passage omitted]

The December report accused police of 43 extra-legal killings and called for a public inquiry into the use of guns by security personnel. [passage omitted]

The KHRC called for the withdrawal of what it called an apparent "shoot-to-kill" order, accusing the police of acting - whether officially or unofficially - as "judge, jury and executioner".

The 1995 Amnesty International report on human rights also accuses the government of serious human rights abuses and says the situation is deteriorating.

It accuses the country's security agencies of torturing and killing suspects in custody.

But the government countered that it was not its policy to violate the rights of its citizens. [passage omitted]

It argues that although the local situation may not meet the set international standards, the developed countries, the United States included, were equally guilty of human rights abuse. [passage omitted]

"Unlike other human rights reports, which detail in what respect the state has failed to discharge its responsibilities under international human rights instruments, the KHRC report does not approach the subject as a specialized legal subject requiring the creation of a nexus between an incident and state culpability. It is embr-

rassing to the sponsors of the project and it is hoped that they will analyse the professionalism of the KHRC."

The KHRC was accused of failing to appreciate the tremendous progress achieved in the improvement of the human rights situation in Kenya.

"Freedom of speech, press, political association, judiciary, etc, have, in the face of great obstacles, been faithfully guaranteed by the government. Kenya is an open society. It has institutional checks and balances of political power. [passage omitted]

"The government continues to put in place measures to ensure even stricter observance of human rights. Law enforcement officers who breach codes of conduct have been prosecuted as the KHRC report acknowledges. Legislation that is inconsistent with Kenya's observance of international standards in human rights is constantly being reviewed."

The report says Kenya has continued to honor its domestic and international obligations with respect to human rights and the overall record was a positive one.

The report concludes that in analysing a country's human rights record, it pays to look at government's attitude toward persons who have breached the rights of others.

"The government is not embarrassed of its human rights record," it says.

**Somalia****Somalia: USC-SNA Official Calls For 'Jihad' Against Aidid**

*EA3004160296 (Clandestine) Radio Mogadishu Voice of Somali Pacification in Somalia 1115 GMT 30 Apr 96*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mr. Hussein Hirsi Shidane, the USC-SNA [United Somali Congress-Somali National Alliance] secretary for information and social relations has reported on the problems caused by the Aidid group to the Somali community. These have reached a stage where they can no longer be tolerated, given the violations of the dignity of Muslims and respect for Idd celebrations blessed by the lord god.

Mr. Shidane, while briefing radio journalists today, gave detailed explanations of the crooked acts committed by Aidid's militia on 28 April. This act has negatively affected the Muslim world especially the Somali people who are firm in their Islamic beliefs. Violating the rights of citizens — the right to speech, trade and movement among the fraternal Somali people — and preventing acts of worship are not new to the anti-Islamic group

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## EAST AFRICA

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of Aidid. Rather, this is part of their daily routine of banditry and terrorism in which they undermine the stability and cohabitation of Somali people, said Mr. Hussein Hirs Shidane. [passage omitted]

He went on to say the time for rallies and verbally denouncing the enemies of Islam was past. He said it was now time for religious scholars and other Muslims to jointly embark on a jihad similar to that of the bloody Friday and others against the corrupt regime of Mohamed Siad Barre. [passage omitted]

**Somalia: 13 Killed, 53 Wounded in Southern  
Factional Fighting**

*EA3004190596 Mogadishu Voice of the Somali  
Republic in Somali 1700 GMT 30 Apr 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] A senior official who spoke for the RRA [Rahanwein Resistance Army] has disclosed that Aidid's forces attacked (Abagbeben) village 15 km from the Xuddur district in the Bakool region.

He added that two Aidid technicals were burned out and 11 bandits were killed, while 50 others were injured. On the RRA side two died and three others were injured.

The official said Aidid's forces were pursued and fighting is now underway at a place known as (Farak).

He said the fighting was serious and we shall inform you of any new developments.

**Somalia: Butrus-Ghali Meets With Somali Leaders  
in Nairobi**

*EA3004191096 Mogadishu Voice of the Somali  
Republic in Somali 1700 GMT 30 Apr 96*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Leaders of Somali organizations have met UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi. They briefed him on the general situation in Somalia and the need for the United Nations to help in reconciliation. They noted the work carried out by the United Nations over the last few years and praised the secretary general for his efforts to turn world attention to Somalia. The organizations told Butrus-Ghali that the United Nations should never tire from striving toward reconciliation and rendering assistance to Somalia.

Butrus-Ghali praised the Somali organizations for their efforts toward reconciliation. He said the United Nations would never withdraw from Somali affairs, whether on the side of reconciliation or assistance. He stressed that the United Nations is determined to continue with its activities. [passage omitted]

**South Africa: 'Thousands' Support COSATU Strike in All Major Centers**

*MB3004121896 Johannesburg SAfm Radio Network in English 1100 GMT 30 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Thousands of strikers have taken to the streets in all the major centers in support of COSATU's [Congress of South African Trade Unions] demand for the exclusion of the strike lock-out clause in the new constitution. In Johannesburg about 7,000 strikers gathered at the Library Gardens in the city center before embarking on a march to the Chamber of Mines Building. Protests are also to be held outside the National Party [NP] and Democratic Party [DP] offices in the city.

Addressing the crowd before the march, Assistant General Secretary Zwelinzima Vavi repeated COSATU's warning of more strikes if their demands regarding the new constitution were not met. He added that COSATU would not compromise on worker demands. Other speakers accused the NP and the DP of being intransigent with regard to the new constitution.

In Cape Town thousands of protesters gathered behind a police cordon outside parliament where they are being addressed by COSATU Secretary General Sam Shilowa. The gates of parliament are locked, and the police are maintaining a strong presence. In Port Elizabeth there is a strong police presence at Centenary Hall in New Brighton where about 1,000 people have gathered for the march to the city hall. No roads will be closed, but traffic will be diverted when necessary.

In Pretoria about 15,000 people are gathered at the Union Buildings. Protesters are planning to hand petitions to the NP and DP offices demanding an end to the parties' support for the lock-out clause. And a report just in says representatives of the DP in Pretoria had to be rescued by police when marchers almost attacked them. DP Deputy National Leader William Mnisu was reading a DP counter memorandum to workers when angry workers insulted him and called him a puppet.

Marches in the Free State went off without incident. The main marches were in Bloemfontein, Welkom and Thaba Nchu. Barry Classen reports:

[Classen] Several thousand people representing trade unions, student organizations, and the ANC alliance marched to the Bloemfontein city center. Memorandums were handed over to representatives of the NP, the DP, and the business community. There was a large police presence, but the march went off peacefully. The success of the stayaway varies from place to place in the Free State. The stayaway did not have a marked effect on the Free State gold mining industry, and it

was only at the President Stein Gold Mine in Welkom where workers did not turn up for their shift. The mining industry confirmed an 85-90 percent worker turnout despite the National Union of Mineworkers' support for the strike. Meanwhile the South African Chamber of Business says there has been a mixed response to today's nationwide strike with a 95 percent stayaway reported in some cases, and 100 percent worker turnout in others. Absenteeism is reported to be especially high in the Eastern Cape, while the Western Cape has been little affected by the strike.

Commerce and industry in the Eastern Cape has been hard hit by the strike. There will be no production at major car manufacturers, Delta, Volkswagen and Mercedes Benz today, although some workers did turn up for work. Tire manufacturers also report no production. Municipalities have been weakened by an almost 95 percent stayaway of their labor force, but essential services have not been disrupted. In the Western Cape there was virtually no stayaway in the major clothing, engineering and textile industries. Chamber of Commerce and Industry Deputy Director (Colin Boyce) says this could possibly be attributed to severe penalties for not arriving at work having been written into the workers' agreements. Mr. (Boyce) also said a number of companies had allowed their workers time off for today's marches, but that they would make up the time lost.

Gauteng's Johannesburg Hospital has been severely affected by the strike with more than half the staff staying off work. In contrast there has been 100 percent turnout [word indistinct] staff at Soweto's Baragwanath Hospital. In Durban, harbor operations have been hit by a 50 percent stayaway. A Portnet [Port Network Authority] spokesperson says the harbor is about 80 percent operational. The container terminals and the road transport section have been hardest hit.

Several towns in Northern Province have also been hard hit by the strike with worker turnout estimated at between 10 and 20 percent. However, temporary staff are helping business to cope. At Phalaborwa both mining companies reached agreements with their work force beforehand and agreed on the number of workers that could be excused from work without harming production excessively.

**South Africa: DP Leader Leon 'Punched' by Workers During COSATU Strike**

*MB0105094896 Johannesburg SOWETAN in English 1 May 96 p 3*

[Report by Rafiq Rohan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Democratic Party [DP] leader Tony Leon thought he was being politically brave when he confronted Congress of South African Trade Union [COSATU] marchers outside Parliament yesterday, but ended up being physically beaten.

The DP leader was slapped on the head and punched in the body by furious workers protesting the controversial lockout clause and, were it not for the hastily-arranged police cordon around him, the beating could have ended up being severe.

One of his party faithfuis, Senator Errol Moorcroft, who was at his side, did not resist from resorting to fisticuffs himself when he threw a few blows at workers attacking him.

As he tried to break free from the melee, he punched the face of a COSATU member in a red t-shirt. Leon, too, clearly wanted to resort to a punch-up as he put up his fists to square for a fight, but better sense prevailed.

It all began when Leon made his way onto the truck where COSATU general-secretary Sam Shilowa was addressing the 25,000-strong crowd right outside the gates of Parliament in the one-day strike. Leon said that he wanted to address the workers. Shilowa rounded on Leon: "Let him say what he wants to say at his own meeting."

Leon responded, referring to Shilowa: "He is not a democrat. He practises totalitarianism."

Leon was jeered by the angered crowd. When they spotted him they broke out into a chant: "Tony Leon has mad cow disease!" This chant was magnified by the speakers from the microphone of the stage. "Tony Leon, you are an opportunist," the chants continued.

As he tried to make his way back from the truck-cum-stage to the Parliament gates, the crowd surged forward. Screaming men and women tried to hit out at Leon with fists. Some blows landed while others missed.

A shaken and disheveled Leon emerged from the crowd in a rage. "This has got nothing to do with constitution-making. This is mob rule," he said as he scurried back to the safety of the parliamentary buildings, surrounded by police.

One of the speakers, Phillip Dexter, told SOWETAN after the clash that Leon's behaviour filled him with disgust.

**South Africa: COSATU 'Prepared To Fight' to National Referendum**

*MB3004180696 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1410 GMT 30 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CAPE TOWN April 30 SAPA — COSATU [Congress of South African Trade Unions] was prepared to take its fight against the controversial lockout clause in the constitution all the way to a national referendum, the organisation's secretary-general Sam Shilwa said on Tuesday [29 April].

Speaking to thousands of protesters outside Parliament, he said "To the extent they (the National Party [NP] and the Democratic Party) want a lockout, we'll meet them in a referendum and we'll moer [thrash] them in the referendum". [Word indistinct] he told reporters he was confident that the ANC would not give in to pressure from business and minority parties in Parliament to include the right of employers to lock out strikers in the final constitution, nor would the ANC compromise by accepting a watered-down version.

ANC/SACP [South African Communist Party]/COSATU alliance leaders, including Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, met in Cape Town late Monday night to thrash out a common position on outstanding constitutional issues including the lockout clause. A source said that at the meeting, the ANC reaffirmed its support for COSATU's position on the lockout clause.

He said the NP had indicated at bilateral meetings with COSATU that it would not oppose a constitution with no lockout clause, provided that its demands on the education clauses were met.

However the ANC said in a statement on Tuesday afternoon that it had always sought to interact with constituencies including labour and business on the lockout, property, education and language clauses. "To this end the ANC will endeavour to include the concerns of all these sectors in the final constitution."

It remained optimistic that solutions could be found and that the constitution would be adopted "without much difficulty and within the given time frames". The Constitutional Assembly's special negotiating committee is due to hear a report-back on Tuesday afternoon on progress in talks on the clause.

Shilwa said the strike — the first since the general elections — had been a success with a 100 percent stayaway in some areas and between 40 and 70 percent elsewhere. The NP and DP supported the vested interests of big business, and workers had begun to realise that ultimately they had to choose between parties who supported workers or employers.

Shilowa reiterated that further mass action might be possible if other labour demands were not accommodated in the final constitution.

**South Africa: COSATU, Mandela React to 30 Apr National Strike**

*MB0105081996 Johannesburg SABC 1 Television Network in English 0400 GMT 1 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COSATU [Congress of South African Trade Unions] says it is overwhelmed by the response to its call for a national strike yesterday. The congress claims more than 325,000 workers took to the streets across the country, and millions more stayed away from work. However, the Afrikaanse Handelinstiut [Afrikaans Trade Institute] conducted an independent survey that showed that many workers had ignored the call and turned up for work. The South African Chamber of Business condemned COSATU and the strike, saying the congress had resorted to old style tactics to influence the democratic process.

Meanwhile President Mandela expressed outrage at the manhandling of Democratic Party Leader Tony Leon by members of COSATU yesterday. The President said there was no justification for the use of violence between people who hold different views.

**South Africa: Mandela's Spokesman on Constitution, Workers' Rights**

*MB0105082296 London BBC World Service in English 0530 GMT 1 May 96*

[From the "Network Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In South Africa, the national strike called by the Trade Union Federation, COSATU [Congress of South African Trade Unions], is over but the bone of contention that led to it remains. COSATU is angry at the inclusion in the draft Constitution of a clause allowing employers to lock out striking workers. The constitutional assembly chairman, Cyril Ramaphosa, adjourned negotiations on the clause late yesterday but said the issue would have to be resolved by tonight. COSATU has insisted that President Nelson Mandela is sympathetic to their cause. So, on the line to Johannesburg, my colleague Anna Buttle asked presidential spokesman Parks Mankahlana what exactly was the government's position.

[Begin recording] [Mankahlana] Well, the government has the attitude that workers and trade unions have a right to strike to state their grievances or to get their point of view across. We hope now that they have made their points, they will be returned to normality, that people will return to work, as usual, on Thursday [2 May].

[Buttle] If the government supports the rights of the workers, why weren't they prepared to negotiate on this clause in the new Constitution, giving employers the right to lock out strikers?

[Mankahlana] It is not the government that is involved in negotiations on the Constitution, but different political parties and different interest groups. The ANC [African National Congress] says that it does not want this lockout clause, and naturally the president would agree with that, because he is the president of the ANC. We hope that the political parties and organizations will agree finally and then write a Constitution that will be suitable to the South African people.

[Buttle] It seems to me that president is treading a very fine line, trying to keep everybody happy, but he can't sit on the fence forever. I mean he is the president of the country. A decision is going to have to be reached before the new Constitution can be introduced.

[Mankahlana] Well, obviously, a decision will have to be reached, like it has been reached already on many issues, and these matters are being discussed and views are being exchanged. It is not as though there is an insurmountable problem. The president has already indicated that he is making progress in his discussions with business, and with the ANC and COSATU. So, this matter will just have to be resolved in a way that will satisfy everybody.

[Buttle] But there have been several days of talks already. In the meantime, if COSATU continues to organize strikes, I mean, the economy is going to suffer and big business is going to become more and more unhappy?

[Mankahlana] No, this Constitution is being written now for two years. There are constitutions that took years and years, decades, and some even centuries to write. There are constitutions that were preceded by bloody wars. So, it is a two-year period and we think that we will be able to write this Constitution within those two years. There is nothing to worry about really. [end recording]

**South Africa: KwaZulu Premier—ANC Mass Action Likely To Fuel Violence**

*MB2904171896 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1629 GMT 29 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ULUNDI April 29 SAPA — The African National Congress' campaign of rolling mass action in KwaZulu-Natal was likely to fuel violence in the province, premier Frank Mdlalose said in a statement from Ulundi on Monday [28 April].

The ANC announced on Sunday it would embark on a campaign of mass action to achieve peace and to create

a climate conducive to holding free and fair elections in KwaZulu-Natal.

Mdlalose urged all responsible people not to participate in the ANC's "Operation Bhambatha". "Those who claim that the May 29 elections should be postponed because of violence, and yet want to stir peoples' emotions through the so-called Bhambatha operation, should take responsibility for violence which may follow such demonstrations," Mdlalose warned.

The ANC has called for a postponement of the May 29 poll, citing massive fraud in the voter registration process as well as political tension.

Mdlalose said evidence of fraud should be submitted to the presidential elections task team or the KwaZulu-Natal department of local government for investigation. The task team is probing the feasibility of going ahead with the poll on May 29 and is scheduled to submit its recommendations to President Nelson Mandela in Pretoria on Tuesday.

#### **South Africa: IFP—ANC Wants To Fan Violence To Declare Emergency State**

*MB3004160296 Johannesburg BEELD in Afrikaans  
29 April 96 p 2*

[Report by Deon Lamprecht]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] IFP [Inkatha Freedom Party] leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi yesterday near Empangeni warned that KwaZulu/Natal will indeed go to the polls on May 29 despite the ANC's "obstruction" politics. He said the municipal elections will not be postponed or staggered. [passage omitted]

Buthelezi [words indistinct] the ANC are bullies and cowards who would rather run away than fight the IFP at the polls. Should the elections not take place, the ANC will continue to fan violence so that the government can have an excuse to enforce a state of emergency on the KwaZulu/Natal Province. The ANC wants to make KwaZulu/Natal ungovernable, and then blame the IFP for it.

He said the ANC's national constitution is a recipe for a one-party state. They deny it, but it's the biggest lie of the ANC's election campaign.

#### **South Africa: Committee To Meet Over Outstanding Constitutional Issues**

*MB0105064896 Johannesburg SAfm Radio Network  
in English 0500 GMT 1 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Constitutional Committee failed to reach agreement on stumbling blocks yesterday, raising fears that the final constitution might not

be completed on 8 May as hoped. Constitutional Assembly Chairman Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa said that of the four main stumbling blocks, only the issue of equitable treatment of all 11 languages has been agreed on. He said the remaining issues — the property rights clause, education and the lock-out clause should be finalized today. However, he pointed out that the issue of education would be difficult to resolve because the ANC suspected that the National Party wanted to see apartheid education retained. Mr. Ramaphosa said the Constitutional Assembly would convene on 6 May for the final reading of the new constitution. The Constitutional Committee resumes its meeting this afternoon.

#### **South Africa: ANC Agrees to Constitutional 'Exclusive Powers' for Provinces**

*MB3004121296 Johannesburg SAPA in English  
1128 GMT 30 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cape Town April 30 SAPA — The African National Congress announced on Tuesday [30 April] it was proposing that provinces be granted exclusive powers under South Africa's final constitution.

The new package would empower provinces by assigning them both exclusive and concurrent legislative powers in accordance with the interim Constitution's constitutional principles, a statement read out by senior ANC negotiator Pravin Gordhan at a media briefing said.

It had been approved by the ANC's national working committee last week.

Gordhan said it would be put to other parties in the Constitutional Assembly at multi-party talks starting at noon.

The package also created new certainty and effective powers for local government, he said.

"This innovative package expresses our intention to promote co-operative governance among all three spheres of government and at the same time establishes effective and empowered national, provincial and local government structures."

Gordhan said the question now had to be asked whether there was any reason for the IFP [Inkatha Freedom Party] not to come back to the CA [Constitutional Assembly] and vote for the new constitution next Wednesday.

Earlier, chief Democratic Party constitutional negotiator Colin Eglin said that based on legal opinion it had received, his party was "gravely concerned" that the constitutional text already agreed to by the ANC and

NP [National Party] would not be certified by the Constitutional Court.

Other than empowering the provinces to draw up their own constitutions within the severe constraints of the national constitution, the ANC/NP proposal made no provision for exclusive provincial powers.

Gordhan told the media briefing the ANC decision had been the result of a long process in the party. His colleague, Johnny de Lange, said the party had taken the decision on exclusive provincial powers before last weekend's bilateral between it and the NP.

In terms of a schedule proposed by the ANC, exclusive provincial powers will cover airports other than international and national, provincial recreation and amenities, provincial sports, roads (excluding national ones), liquor licenses, property transfer fees and provincial planning.

A number of local government matters, including ambulance and fire-fighting services and advertising regulations are also to be exclusive.

Education at all levels except tertiary, health services, police and language policy are among the proposed areas of concurrent legislative competence between the provinces and the national government.

Gordhan said if there was a conflict between the two levels of government on concurrent powers, conflict-breaking mechanisms would come into play and the courts would look at which legislation should prevail.

#### **South Africa: Mandela To Decide on Elections After Consultations**

*MB3004151096 Johannesburg SAfm Radio Network in English 1400 GMT 30 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Nelson Mandela's decision on when to hold local government elections in KwaZulu/Natal will not be made until he has consulted the Cabinet and other political leaders.

Presidential spokesperson Parks Mankahlane said that after the consultations Mr. Mandela would make the final decision. The Cabinet is scheduled to meet again next Wednesday [8 May], but Mr. Mandela can summon ministers to an extraordinary meeting to discuss important matters.

Meanwhile, the task group appointed by President Mandela to investigate the possible postponement or staggering of the local government elections in KwaZulu/Natal has presented its report to him. The group is chaired by the minister of provincial affairs and constitutional development, Chris Fismer. Mr. Mankahlane said President Mandela would not react to the report until he had studied it, and consulted with the Cabinet.

#### **South Africa: Azapo Prepares List of 500 Candidates for 1999 Polls**

*MB3004123096 Johannesburg SOWETAN in English 30 Apr 96 p 13*

[Report by Joe Mdhlala]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Taking part in the 1999 elections has now become serious business for the Azanian People's Organisation [Azapo]. There is an increasing realisation within the Black Consciousness Movement that rhetoric, without action, will not lead the movement and its adherents to the promised land.

It is therefore understandable that Azapo has now decided to "concretise" its ideas and remove as much soapbox theory from its lexicon as possible. Already Azapo president Mosibudi Mangena is gearing himself to prepare a list of at least 500 candidates for the election.

Of course, he is mindful that getting 500 candidates to contest the election is a mammoth task, fraught with problems. "In the first instance, one has to take into account that most of our members are people pursuing a variety of careers in many disciplines, including medicine, engineering, accounting and law," he says. "Obviously, they may still have an interest in remaining in their careers, so that becoming Members of Parliament will not necessarily appeal to them. It may not be easy to persuade them to leave their careers."

Also, argues Mangena, Azapo is wary about putting all its eggs in one basket. "The idea of having the entire Azapo leadership in Parliament has its own limitation, and may not be a good thing for the organisation's survival and continuity," he says. "If you did that, you would render the organization ineffective, and that's the last thing Azapo would want to do."

Mangena fondly talks about his love for the organisation and wants to help build it into a formidable force that will make a mark in the next general election. "This is a big task. One has to spend sleepless nights putting the organisation's machinery into shape, and making its manifesto saleable to the masses," he says.

Together with his central committee, he needs to devise a marketing strategy that will make Azapo competitive and "ready to eclipse even the might of the African National Congress" in the next poll. "Our commitment to the organisation should make this task, daunting as it might seem, an enjoyable one. When you love your people, the black people, everything becomes possible," he says.

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He is also mindful that the organisation needs to build a favourable image of itself among the elite and especially among "dispossessed blacks".

"To do that you need the support of the Press, which is often hostile to Azapo for one reason or another. But that is the area in which we must work hard to be able to sell our message to the masses," says Mangena. "The media must show that they can be even-handed in terms of giving space to all political organisations, irrespective of ideology. The media must be nonsectarian, and I hope we will see more of this; even at the SABC [South African Broadcasting Corporation]"

Other practical problems Azapo will have to overcome as it prepares for the general elections include getting funding for its campaign. The organisation is likely to depend on its membership for financial backing. That is a problem Azapo will have to accept as a reality," Mangena says. He does not expect big business to support Azapo financially "as we and business see things from different angles".

"We espouse the gospel of redistribution of wealth, and are very vocal about the need for economic control to be in the hands of blacks. Big business stands for white privilege. It is not surprising that big business continues to support organisations such as the National Party to ensure that white privilege remains the order of the day. And that is what Azapo aims to fight."

This is a disadvantage, says Mangena, but Azapo is not prepared to throw up its arms in despair and do nothing to remedy the weaknesses: "We are saying Azapo has strengths if there are weaknesses, let us work hard to eradicate them."

As Azapo takes pride in its adherence to the concept of self-reliance, it is easy to see why Mangena believes it should not be the organisation's prerogative to beg business for financial aid.

Three years ago Mangena's predecessor, Professor Itumeleng Mosala, talked about Azapo having to find "friends who would support the black cause, and advance a socialist cause".

Of course, Mosala is no longer president of the organisation, but what is well known is that Mangena is a socialist. He is on record as saying capitalism will not improve the lot of "the dispossessed majority".

When South Africans go to the polls for the country's second general election in just under three years, Mangena's thoughts may have taken root and regained black consciousness its former glory. Only time will tell.

### South Africa: Ex-Policemen Demand Cross-Examination of Truth Witnesses

MB3004183296 Johannesburg SAPA in English  
1507 GMT 30 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PRETORIA April 30 SAPA — Four former national police commissioners on Tuesday [30 April] demanded the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's committee on human rights violations adapted its future proceedings to allow for proper cross-examination of witnesses.

Former commissioners Mike Geldenhuys, Johan Coetzee, Hennie de Witt and Johan van der Merwe expressed appreciation for a Cape Supreme Court judgment earlier in the day allowing two retired senior policemen access to commission documents. They warned the commission similar court applications would be made if it refused to allow the cross-examination of witnesses.

"The way in which members and former members of the police have been placed in a bad light by some vague allegations, generalisations, hearsay evidence and apparent untruths cannot be tolerated any further."

Tuesday's verdict forbids the committee from hearing or receiving information which would affect the two former police members, until they had been given advance notice of hearings which might implicate them.

The matter against the two, retired police brigadier Jan Abraham du Preez and retired general Nicolaas Jacobus Janse van Rensburg, was to be heard before the commission in East London on April 15. "It is a pity that the commission, which has the aim of promoting national unity and reconciliation, has not right from the start acted in the spirit of its goal, but has been compelled to do so by the court," the former generals said.

"It is shocking that several members and former members of the police have been denied the right which the Supreme Court has now granted to the two applicants."

### South Africa: New ID Card To Replace Existing ID Book

MB2904090596 Johannesburg SAPA in English  
0841 GMT 29 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cape Town April 29 SAPA — An identity card is to be introduced to replace the existing green identity document, the Home Affairs department said in a statement on Monday [29 April]. This would coincide with the implementation of an automated fingerprinting identification system. Members of the public would not be expected to replace their ID documents when the new system came into operation,

as existing IDs would not become obsolete. The step was being taken because the present ID was not user-friendly, and because a higher degree of security had become essential.

Extensive consultation had taken place and tender specifications were being drafted. No firm date had been set to call for tenders.

The new system would benefit not only Home Affairs but also the Welfare department, which would be able to ensure that only South Africans obtained social pensions.

#### **South Africa: Afrikaner Radio Pretoria Gets 1-Year License**

*MB2904190496 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1842 GMT 29 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PRETORIA April 29 SAPA — The rightwing Radio Pretoria has been granted a licence to operate as a community radio station for the next 12 months by the Independent Broadcasting Authority, the station said in a statement on Monday [29 April].

The station's signal reaches 13 centres in Gauteng, North-West, Mpumalanga, Northern Province and the Free State. The statement said the station aimed to cater for the "Boere-Afrikaner" cultural group.

#### **South Africa: SABC Launches Local Election TV Broadcasts in KwaZulu**

*MB2904201596 Johannesburg SABC 2 Television Network in English 1800 GMT 29 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The SABC [South African Broadcasting Corporation] today launched its first regional television broadcast for KwaZulu/Natal (KZN). KZN tonight will focus mainly on the forthcoming local government elections. It's a forerunner to a fully fledged provincial broadcast to begin on 1 July.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent Alyce Chavanduka] KwaZulu/Natal joins the Western Cape, Mpumalanga, and the Northern Province, where provincial broadcasts were set up earlier on this year. The program will be broadcast live Mondays to Fridays on SABC 2 from 6:00 to 6:30 in the evening [1600-1630 GMT]. It will be televised in Zulu, English, and Afrikaans.

[Head of TV news, Joe Thlaloe] The elections in KwaZulu/Natal are going to be very pivotal to the history of this country. Their success or failure is going to determine the success or failure of this country. There again we are looking forward to regional broadcasting because the closer you bring broadcasting to the people, the better you are able to tell the people their own story.

[Chavanduka] Mr. Thlaloe said exclusive live broadcasts for the five remaining provinces will be established in the next financial year. [end recording]

#### **South Africa: Nzo To Co-Chair First Joint Mozambique Commission Meeting**

*MB3004193096 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1641 GMT 30 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] JOHANNESBURG April 30 SAPA — Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo will on May 2 and 3 co-chair the first meeting of the joint permanent commission which will institutionalise co-operation between South Africa and Mozambique.

The Department of Foreign Affairs said in a statement on Tuesday [30 April] Nzo will be accompanied to Maputo for the meeting by senior officials from several public sector departments and parastatals.

The commission was created in terms of an agreement for co-operation signed by President Nelson Mandela and President Joaquim Chissano in July 1994.

The meeting will assess co-operation achieved and identify new areas within agriculture, trade and industry, mining, tourism, finance, safety and security and institutional development.

#### **South Africa: Agricultural Union Spokesman on Farmers' Move to Mozambique**

*MB3004204296 Johannesburg SABC 2 Television Network in Afrikaans 1900 GMT 30 Apr 96*

[From the "Focus" program, hosted by Sylvia Vollenhoven]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] [Vollenhoven] It seems there is another great trek under way. This time the farmers are trekking across the Limpopo River, deep into Mozambique. Several farmers have already settled in this neighboring country, and more are on the way. An agreement on the establishment of South Africans crossing the border is due to be signed by President Nelson Mandela and the Mozambican Government on Monday [6 May]. Producer Gerhard van Niekerk went to find out why these people are venturing into the unknown.

[Begin recording] [Van Niekerk] Not long ago, the rest of the African continent was a mystery to many Afrikaners; they had images of dictatorships and corruption, war and famine. But the winds of change have been blowing, and now a few farmers are doing the unthinkable — they are trekking deeper into darker Africa. One of the people in the forefront of the venture is Freedom Front Senator Dries Bruwer, who is also president of

the Transvaal Agricultural Union. He says the reason for the farmers' desire to trek is genetic.

[Bruwer] I have often asked myself the question: why did our forefathers leave France? The first settlers in the Cape were from Holland, but later there were Germans, and in 1820, English settlers. All these people came to a country where there was nothing. I believe that gene has remained in our veins. I expect that initially about 100 farmers will leave South Africa, but as development takes place and the infrastructure improves, I am sure many more people will move to Mozambique. Many Afrikaners have been affected by affirmative action. These people have no jobs here in South Africa, and for the foreseeable future the situation will remain the same. Those who believe they can apply their skills outside the country will leave. But they will have a choice of countries.

[Van Niekerk] The project is the result of an unusual alliance between the ANC and the Freedom Front. President Nelson Mandela supports the initiative to attract settlers to countries outside South Africa. [passage omitted] [end recording]

#### **South Africa: UNCTAD Proposes Using 'Trade Points' on Internet**

*MB3004164596 Johannesburg SAPA in English  
1419 GMT 30 Apr 96*

[Report by Gordon Bell]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] JOHANNESBURG April 30 SAPA — The establishment of Trade Points in South Africa would significantly enhance the trade possibilities for small and medium sized enterprises [SMEs]. Trade and Industry secretary general Zabareh Rustomjee said on Tuesday [30 April].

He said at a press conference in Midrand the computerised Trade Points would draw key players into the economy and make trade more accessible to SMEs.

The Trade Points were a network, linked to the Internet, which provided day-to-day trade information. Individuals could link into the programme from their personal computers or through established trade centres.

South Africa set up its first Trade Points at a presentation at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development [UNCTAD] Tuesday [30 April]. Rustomjee said the new Trade Points was just a first of many planned for South Africa in connection with the local small business centres.

Trade and Industry minister Alex Erwin said the Trade Points would give SMEs access to information they could never have received before. He said the pro-

gramme would ensure improved management of trade between the sectors of the economy and ultimately ensure more accurate economic projections.

Unctad special programme for trade efficiency head, Jean Gurunian, said 100 countries were connected via the trade points. Thirty five of South Africa's Trade Points were presently fully operational.

#### **South Africa: China, Taiwan Fighting Diplomatic Battle To Woo Country**

*MB0105122796 Johannesburg SAPA in English  
1056 GMT 1 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TAIPEI May 1 SAPA-DPA — Taiwan is fighting a diplomatic battle against China to keep South Africa and Panama from switching recognition from Taipei to Beijing.

Taipei said Wednesday [1 May], Economics Minister Chiang Ping-kun will lead a trade delegation to Panama on May 4. Taipei also plans to send a trade delegation to South Africa.

China is wooing South Africa and Panama to switch diplomatic recognition from Taipei to Beijing.

South African Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo is scheduled to visit Taiwan, probably in June, to tell Taipei the difficulty it faces in handling ties with Taipei and Beijing.

Johannes Viljoen, South African ambassador to Taiwan, said South African President Nelson Mandela is in a dilemma because pro-Beijing parliamentarians demand that he choose between Taipei and Beijing before next July 1.

If Pretoria maintains ties with Taipei, the lobbyists said, Beijing may close South Africa's consulate general and cancel South African Airways' landing rights in Hong Kong.

They claimed if South Africa wants to play a leadership role in Africa, it must follow international practice which is to recognize China.

Nzo visited Beijing last month and planned to visit Taiwan afterwards, but postponed the trip due to Taiwan's presidential elections.

Hong Kong, a British colony since 1898, will return to China next July.

Taiwan has said it did not mind South Africa's establishing ties with China so long as it does not affect the existing Taipei-Pretoria ties. In 1994, when President Lee Teng-hui attended Mandela's inauguration, Mandela assured Lee that South Africa would not cut ties with Taiwan unless Taipei has done South Africa wrong.

**China is also wooing Panama.**

In March, Panama informed Taipei that it was going to exchange informal trade missions with China in order to continue to trade with Hong Kong after 1997. "As Panama-Hong Kong trade exceeds one billion U.S. dollars a year ... Panama is negotiating the establishment of a non-governmental office in Hong Kong to take care of its commercial and maritime interests," the Panamanian Foreign Ministry said.

Taiwan, the seat of the exiled Chinese Nationalist Government since 1949, is recognized by 31 countries. Last December, China warned five of Taiwan's allies that their consulates in Hong Kong may be downgraded after 1997. The five countries are South Africa, Guinea-Bissau, Costa Rica, Panama and the Commonwealth of Dominica.

**South Africa: SAA, Lufthansa Airlines Begin Joint Flights 29 Apr**

**MB3004161296 Johannesburg BEELD in Afrikaans 29 Apr 96 p 4**

[FBIS Translated Text] The first combined domestic flights by Lufthansa and SAA [South African Airways] will begin operations today after an agreement was established between the two airlines to form a "strategic global alliance."

The agreement determines flights between Frankfurt, Munich and Dusseldorf in Germany, and flights between Johannesburg and Cape Town will be shared by Lufthansa and SAA. The flights are for passengers who make use of Lufthansa or SAA when they travel to South Africa or Germany.

The agreement, signed in December by the two airlines, offers South African passengers direct access to 118 countries served by Lufthansa. The agreement also gives tourists who make use of Lufthansa's 420 destinations direct access to South Africa.

**South Africa: Tourism Agreement Signed With Hungary**

**MB3004192996 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1727 GMT 30 Apr 96**

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CAPE TOWN April 30 SAPA — Cooperation on tourism between South Africa and Hungary was boosted on Tuesday [30 April] when the two countries signed an agreement in Cape Town.

The agreement, signed by Tourism Minister Dawie de Villiers and Hungarian Industry and Trade Minister Imre Dunai, supports development of tourism between the two countries, emphasising organised tourism and

tourism marketing and promotion. The two countries will also support tourism investments.

"In order to provide South Africans and Hungarians with up-to-date information, the countries will promote the exchange of tourism data and publicity materials, as well as films and exhibition materials, and travel journalists," De Villiers said.

The agreement will see South Africa being marketed as a tourist destination at a higher level in Hungary than previously, Dunai said.

The weaker rand would make Hungary a more attractive destination for South African tourists visiting Europe, De Villiers told SAPA at the signing ceremony. He believed the agreement would make a "substantial contribution to strengthening ties between the two countries". The agreement would probably be followed by the signing of a trade agreement between Hungary and South Africa.

Three thousand South African tourists visited Hungary last year.

**South African Press Review for 30 Apr**

**MB3004140996**

**[FBIS Report]**

**THE STAR**

Decline of Rand [words indistinct] rand's "precipitate decline contains mixed blessings," according to Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 30 April. "But perhaps more depressing than the patent spin-offs from rand weakness is the psychological damage" since a country's state of health "is mirrored in the value of its currency. That value is determined by how the world investment and trading community perceives the nation in question." THE STAR refers to labor, "with its strikes, poor productivity and trade union militancy." But if "labour has accounted for most the rand's decline, then links with Libya and Cuba account for the balance. Pragmatism must replace idealism in the interests of survival in an increasingly competitive world. Nor should we allow any recovery in the rand's value — and it is bound to revive somewhat in the next few weeks — to deter us from these pursuits."

**THE CITIZEN**

Government Warned Not To 'Antagonise' the West — "We agree there should be no panic over the fall of the rand — though heaven knows it is one of the most disturbing currency developments that we can recall in recent years," states the page-6 editorial in Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English on 26 April. The government

"cannot just sit back" in the hope that the rand will stabilize at what Finance Minister Trevor Manuel has described as "a realistic level." "The government has to restore overseas confidence by dropping its support for Libya and other 'blacklisted' countries so that we do not antagonise the West, especially the United States." Furthermore, the government "must show, by word and deed, that it is running the country not to please the ANC and its allies, but to make it truly a country of peace and reconciliation, with a financial policy that underpins the economy and helps the country's economic development to the benefit of all."

#### CAPE TIMES

**COSATU-Called Strike Economic 'Blackmail'** — Commenting on the COSATU [Congress of South African Trade Unions]-called strike to protest the lock-out clause in the draft constitution, Cape Town CAPE TIMES in English on 25 April in a page-8 editorial says: "In the scheme of things, COSATU has a right to protest and make known the views of its million members. But the ANC has a responsibility to ensure that the brute pressure COSATU wants to apply does not impinge on the sovereignty of Parliament. If the members of COSATU are aggrieved over the shortcomings in the new constitution, they should take their revenge at the next election." CAPE TIMES believes "now is not the time to be bloody-minded and subject the country to economic blackmail."

#### South African Press Review for 1 May

MB0105090696

[FBIS Report]

**SOWETAN Joint Effort Needed To Solve Economic Problems** — "The rand's fall against major currencies, followed by an increase in interest rates, is bound to have a profound effect on the living standards of all South Africans," states a page-8 Johannesburg SOWETAN editorial in English on 1 May. Unfortunately, "it is the poor who will suffer" the most, "for many of them have been hit with higher commuting costs due to the

rise in gasoline prices, which means less money for food, clothing, and basic necessities. In a broader context, the lending rate increase "will cause a slowdown in economic activity, which in turn will hold back much needed economic growth, on which a large part of the RDP is premised". The editorial suggests the government take steps to formulate policies to help prevent an economic downfall, but "this can only be attained through some kind of social pact between labor, the state and business. The fate of the economy, and that of the country, cannot be left to one stakeholder only." Worker's Day Challenges — a second editorial on the same page honors the country's workers for "the long and bitter struggle to change SA [South Africa] into a more democratic, more just society." Though repressed during the "dark days of apartheid", today's working class is today organized and represented by unions. They face "new challenges" of poor living conditions, "starvation pay", and the most significant problem, unemployment. Labor has to "find a way to work with employers and the State to make it possible to put them into gainful employment. Can it live up to that challenge?"

**THE STAR Stormy Past, Tough Future** — "The past decade has seen a remarkable rise in the importance of labor in the political equation," recalls Johannesburg THE STAR in a page-10 editorial in English on 1 May. Workers can be proud of their "victories" — "a soon-to-be implemented Labor Relations Act and a Basic Conditions of Employment green paper that may become law by the end of the year". However, unemployment now stands at 43 percent and "COSATU's comfortable alliance with the ANC comes under increasing strain over clashing priorities". "Labor must guard against being the protector of the employed at the expense of the unemployed and thus, in turn, creating a privileged class in a sea of poverty and despair." It is time labor "realized its true place in this scenario, and acted accordingly."

**Angola****Angola: UNITA Official on Arms Delivery, Mines Destruction**

*MB3004160796 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 1200 GMT 30 Apr 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Isaiah Samakuva, head of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] delegation to the Joint Commission, says his organization is handing over its weapons in quartering areas. He was reacting to concerns by the international community over the quality of weapons handed over by UNITA.

[Begin recording] [Samakuva] As we said earlier, we are handing over our weapons. Some units certainly have arms of a better quality and when such units are confined, those arms will be handed over. However, those who do not have good weapons will be confined with the arms they possess.

[Unidentified correspondent] This concern was voice by the U.S. President's Special Envoy Paul Hare.

[Samakuva] Certainly. All those who fear that UNITA is keeping soldiers or arms have expressed concern over the issue, but we want to assure everyone that we are not keeping arms or soldiers.

[Correspondent] The UN Security Council last week issued a statement in which it called for the destruction of mine stocks in a public ceremony.

[Samakuva] UNITA has already agreed with this proposal. UNITA President Dr. Jonas Savimbi has written a letter to the U.S. senator who proposed this agreeing with him, so we are ready to do so. [end recording]

**Angola: UNITA's Gato on Troop Confinement, Lusaka Accords**

*MB0105095096 London BBC World Service in Portuguese 2030 GMT 30 Apr 96*

[From the Londres Ultima Hora" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] has denied that Jonas Savimbi intends to denounce the Lusaka accords. The information was circulated by a Portuguese newspaper last week. UNITA General Secretary Paulo Lukamba Gato told the BBC however, that this was not his party's strategy. Lukamba Gato said UNITA's priority is to continue to confine troops and defend peace.

[Begin recording] [Gato] UNITA is fully involved in the confinement process. We have already confined over 24,000 troops.

[Unidentified correspondent] UNITA promised to confine 30,000 men by 8 May, when the UN Angola Verification Mission-3 mandate expires. Will this promise be fulfilled?

[Gato] Absolutely, UNITA generals and army officers are personally fully involved in the process and we believe that by 8 May, we shall have confined more troops than is expected.

[Correspondent] A few days ago, a Portuguese newspaper, SEMANARIO, said UNITA President Dr. Jonas Savimbi intends to visit Western Europe and denounce the Lusaka Protocol. What is happening exactly?

[Gato] No schedule has been prepared so far regarding the president's diplomatic activity, nor is there any truth about the allegations circulated by the newspaper. I believe at the present time, UNITA and its officials are fully omitted to the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol. [end recording]

**Angola: MPLA-UNITA Disagreement Over Constitution Discussed**

*MB3004154596 London BBC World Service in Portuguese 2030 GMT 29 Apr 96*

[Report by Reginaldo Silva in Luanda; from the "Londres Ultima Hora" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] More details have emerged about the revision of the Constitution proposed by government and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA]. It looks as if a consensus will be difficult to reach, though government and UNITA seem to agree on the establishment of a presidentialist system during the transition period.

The MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] wants the continuation of a prime minister devoid of any powers, while UNITA simply wants the disbanding of his post. UNITA wants the proposed vice presidents to have executive powers clearly stated in the Constitution, while the government proposes that the president of the Republic delegate responsibilities to the vice presidents, and would also be entitled to abrogate such responsibilities.

UNITA proposes that the president of the Republic should hold the defense, foreign and home affairs portfolios. The vice presidents would each have 10 portfolios. UNITA wants the main public companies and institutions to be jointly coordinated, with administrators appointed to the National Bank of Angola, the Treasury, the National Angolan Fuel Company, and the Angola National Diamond Enterprise.

The government proposals are quite clear about the president of the Republic's responsibilities, and it is obvious that those who drafted the bill want the head of state to have additional powers. It is a markedly presidentialist bill in which the prime minister would become a [word indistinct] assistant to the president of the Republic, from whom he would receive guidelines on how to conduct his affairs.

In case of the inability of the president of the Republic to discharge his duties during the transition period, he would be replaced by the MPLA-designated vice president. Should the latter become unfit to hold office, he would be replaced by the National Assembly chairman. The government proposals state that the current president of the Republic will announce general elections when conditions are in place, though no date is mentioned in the proposals.

### Mozambique

#### Mozambique: Political Party Rules Out Coalition in 1997-99 Elections

*MB3004193896 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1730 GMT 30 Apr 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Mozambique Democratic Party, Pademo, says it will not form a coalition with other parties in the upcoming local government elections, as well as in the 1999 general elections. Pademo says other opposition parties are not honest, noting that some of them have not accounted for the money they spent during the October 1994 general elections. A Pademo statement says it will participate on its own in the 1997 and 1999 elections to prevent confusion, embezzlement of funds, ambition, and intrigue.

Reacting to Pademo's statement, Domingos Arouca, president of the Mozambique United Front-Democratic Convergence Party, said each party is entitled to a position, noting that it is still too early to speak of a coalition because no date has been set for local government elections.

#### Mozambique: Monamo Leader—Catholic Church Interfering in State Affairs

*MB3004121196 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1030 GMT 30 Apr 96*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Dr. Maximo Dias, Mozambican Nationalist Movement-Mozambican Social Democratic Party [Monamo-PMSD] leader, has said in Beira that the Catholic Church is interfering in a political issue when it speaks out against Muslim holidays.

The Monamo-PMSD leader believes the Catholic Church must neither be for nor against the Assembly of the Republic approving the law on Muslim holidays.

Speaking to Radio Mozambique in Beira, Dias said the Christian churches must reflect on the matter and let President Joaquim Chissano consult with people and ponder over the matter so he can arrive at the best possible solution. [passage omitted]

### Namibia

#### Namibia: MPs Seek To Expell Nigerians for Forming Political Parties

*MB0105054796 Windhoek THE NAMIBIAN in English 24 Apr 96 p 5*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A second member of the National Council has called for the deportation of Nigerian citizens in Namibia who form political parties.

SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization] MP Vilho Kamanya yesterday called on Government to send Nigerians who formed a party at Oshakati back home or to put them in Osire refugee camp.

Kamanya charged that the formation of the party could end in bloodshed as there were apparently other Nigerians in Namibia who had distanced themselves from the grouping.

Kamanya claimed that the formation of a political party inside Namibia by foreigners was a violation of Article 21 of the Constitution.

Last week National Councillor Josephine Hamutwe called for the deportation of Nigerians who had formed the United Nigeria Democratic Party at Oshakati earlier this month.

#### Namibia: Main Supply Dam Reaches 'Critically' Low Level

*MB0105055096 Windhoek THE WINDHOEK ADVERTISER in English 25 Apr 96 p 1*

[Report by John Grobler]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Windhoek's water supply has reached what is possibly its most precarious position in recent history with the main supply dam, the Sartorius von Bach reaching a critically low level and the other two supply dams also at their lowest level over the past three years.

The Department of Water Affairs yesterday said they have had to stop pumping water from the Omatako because the water extraction tower at Omatako has reached its lowest point.

And while the Swakoppoort Dam is still being used to pump water from there to Von Bach, its present lowest level of 18.6 per cent (12,851 million cubic metres)

may necessitate the pumping of water back from Von Bach to Swakoppoort by November this year to keep the Navachab and Rossing mines operating, Mr Guido van Langenhoven warned yesterday.

Mr van Langenhoven said that the Department of Water Affairs was working on constructing a floating platform, to be fitted with pumps and connecting pipes to the main water extraction tower to pump up every bit of available water left in this relatively shallow dam between Otjiwarongo and Okahandja.

Emergency plans to extract water from the disused Berg Aukas Mine and the boreholes in the Grootfontein (Karstland) area were in an advanced stage, and upon implementation would see the water from these two sources pumped via the Great Eastern Water carrier to Omatako — and from there to Von Bach again.

However, should the Swakoppoort run empty before November, he said, consideration would have to be given to pumping water back from Von Bach to Swakoppoort to keep the economically crucial mining operations at Arandis and Karibib in operation, Mr van Langenhoven said.

A helicopter flight over the Von Bach Dam showed the once-huge man-made lake slowly turning into a dust bowl, with [word indistinct] silt build-up at the dam's double sluices.

### Swaziland

#### Swaziland: UNCTAD Analysis Notes Country's Development Efforts

*MB3004180896 Mbabane Radio Swaziland Network in English 1600 GMT 30 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Kingdom of Swaziland is among African countries that have demonstrated their determination to overcome the problems of underdevelopment. This analysis of Africa's current development changes was an issue at an on-going UN Conference on Trade and Development in Johannesburg.

The analysis said although Swaziland has achieved satisfactory growth rates, progress is still not enough. The conference said the most pressing problems facing African countries, including Swaziland, are eradication of poverty, human resources development, and the

transformation of the productive structures of their economies.

### Zambia

#### Zambia: UNIP Berates Government Attacks on Envoys

*MB3004162096 Lusaka THE POST in English 30 Apr 96*

[Report by Sipo Kapumba: "Government Attacks on Envoys Criticized" — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Opposition UNIP [United National Independence Party] yesterday condemned recent attacks on foreign diplomats by the government and its media, describing it "irresponsible, undiplomatic and unfortunate".

UNIP vice-president, senior chief Inyambo Yeta, said in a statement yesterday that if the government had any complaints against foreign envoys it should use "acceptable and civilised" methods instead of making blatant public attacks. "It is completely undiplomatic to attack envoys in their individual or personal capacity," Yeta said. "The channels for laying down complaints are well known."

But chief government spokesman, Amusaa Mwanamwamba, said in an interview yesterday that if diplomats wanted to be spared from public attacks they should avoid getting embroiled in domestic wrangles.

"Diplomats would be advised to restrict their actions to promoting relations between Zambia and their countries," he said. "If they feel they need to draw the government's attention on any issue they should use 'quiet diplomacy'." Mwanamwamba added that if diplomat's justification for publicly commenting on domestic affairs was in defence of their tax payers who pay for the foreign aid Zambia receives from their countries, they should expect equally public comment from concerned Zambians. He ruled out any government directives to the state media to stop attacking diplomats publicly, arguing that they were free to editorialise as they wished. Yeta in his statement accused the government media of being abused by the government.

**Liberia****Liberia: Armed Forces Official Speaks From BTC on Continued Fighting**

*AB3004162796 London BBC World Service  
in English 1505 GMT 30 Apr 96*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The 10-day-old truce in Liberia appears to have broken down completely following the shooting which broke out yesterday afternoon around the Executive Mansion. Members of the ruling Council of State, who were meeting there, including the chairman, Wilton Sankawolo, and the NPFL [National Patriotic Front of Liberia] leader, Charles Taylor, were forced to flee under a hail of bullets. The NPFL claimed the attack came from the Barclay Training Center [BTC] barracks, where Krahn supporters of the wanted ULIMO [United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia] leader, Roosevelt Johnson, have been under siege for the past couple of weeks, and today the fighting has continued as our Monrovia correspondent, Nyenati Allison, reports in this telex.

Fighting intensified in Monrovia today, forcing hundreds of people to flee to centers for the displaced. Others residents remained holed up in their houses as the fighting raged around them. The main clashes have centered on the Executive Mansion following the overnight occupation of the western parts of Sinkor suburb by supporters of Roosevelt Johnson. ECOMOG [Economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group] peacekeeping troops have maintained a presence around the Executive Mansion but merely stood by and watched today as the fighting between the warring factions escalated. Other peacekeeping troops deployed around the Barclay Training Center have been pulled back. ECOMOG sources say they have been withdrawn because of ULIMO-J's [United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia-Johnson faction] refusal to remain within the BTC. ECOMOG troops have also pulled back from their positions on the two bridges linking the western Bushrod Island suburb to the city center. They had been stationed there in order to prevent hundreds of NPFL fighters from reaching the city center. Their withdrawal has now allowed the NPFL fighters to cross over and move toward the center.

As the boom of mortars and artillery fire echoed around this area, fresh skirmishes erupted near Mamba Point this afternoon. These skirmishes are still continuing, and the U.S. Embassy at Mamba Point has cautioned its employees to keep off the streets, adding that anyone leaving the compound must travel with an armed escort.

Meanwhile a U.S. delegation, headed by Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs George Moose, arrived in Monrovia last night to try to convince the various faction leaders to attend a forthcoming ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States] summit to be held in Accra.

[Announcer] Now as you've heard, last night's outbreak of shooting in Liberia has provoked a heavy response from forces loyal to Charles Taylor and to Alhaji Koromah, and once again, the Barclay Training Center, the BTC, is being targeted. Colonel Thomas Doeway of the Armed Forces of Liberia is sheltering in the barracks. On the line, Tom Porteous asked him what was happening.

[Begin recording] [Doeway] There is a shelling going on from yesterday evening. Up until now, the BTC is being [word indistinct] by Mr. Taylor and Koromah's forces and people are dying again [words indistinct]

[Porteous] So, how many people have died in today's fighting?

[Doeway] In today's fighting, we got seven persons killed. One senior officer just got hit, and I mean, so that is, one injured, seven dead.

[Porteous] Is this shelling heavier than the shelling that you had earlier last week on the Barclay Training Center?

[Doeway, interrupting] [Words indistinct] it's increased, it's increased. I mean, if I tell you in an about an hour, we've received more than 30, 40, [words indistinct] shelling, both rocket propelled grenades, [words indistinct], mortar rounds, and 106.

[Porteous] Do you think that this is the final push on the Barclay Training Center by Charles Taylor? Is that how it feels to you?

[Doeway] Well, they said that for humanitarian reasons, they were not overrunning the Barclay Training Center but this time, we don't know what is the cause now that they have intended to come and overrun this place. I think that is what they are doing.

[Porteous] A senior American diplomat is in Liberia at the moment to try and shore up the cease-fire. Has he been in touch with anyone in the Barclay Training Center.

[Doeway] Well, not to my knowledge (?because) I am one of those that is on that committee that has been talking with the international community. If it is true that the high American official that came is in Monrovia or (?whatever it is), I want to make this appeal that let him get to us so that we can be able to give our side of

the story, and let the Americans try to help us. There is a cholera outbreak, no food, no water. We continue to appeal to the international community, and nothing has been done about it. [end recording]

#### **Liberia: ULIMO-J Spokesman—Fighting Continues in Monrovia**

*AB3004190096 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 30 Apr 96*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The 10-day old truce in Liberia appears to have broken down completely following the shooting which broke out yesterday afternoon around the Executive Mansion. [passage omitted]

So, as you have heard, there has been an escalation today in the fighting which broke out in Monrovia overnight with ULIMO-J [United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia-Johnson faction], the LPC [Liberian Peace Council], and the Armed Forces of Liberia [AFL] continuing to resist attempts by Charles Taylor and Alhaji Kromah to force them out of the Barclay Training Center, the BTC. Earlier tonight, we spoke to Madison Wion, the ULIMO-J spokesman who is inside the barracks. On the line, Robin White asked him what the situation was.

[Begin recording] [Wion] The attack that is going on includes mortar, RPG and other things are being used to attack the Barclay Training Center where we have the AFL, ULIMO-J, and LPC forces located along with unarmed civilians.

[White] And how much damage has been done today?

[Wion] Since then, there has been a lot of damage — people wounded and several others died. We have to take time to find out. More than 10 or 15 have died now from the shelling. Right?

[White] And is the fighting still going on?

[Wion] Yes, the fighting has just resumed after one hour. The fighting has just resumed and as I am talking to you now, there is shelling going on. [gunshots heard in the background]

[White] Is that such firing we can hear in the background?

[Wion] That's correct. This is firing you hear from the background from the direction of Mr. Taylor forces and Mr. Kromah forces.

[White] But are you firing back?

[Wion] Well, as I am saying to you, we have to make sure that we defend our position so that the innocent civilians here cannot be harmed.

[White] Are people fleeing because of the firing?

[Wion] Well, people are not fleeing because BTC is the only safe haven now, and so what is happening — people from the city center and other surrounding areas are running to BTC. This is the only area that they can come to for their safety.

[White] Yes, now, some might say that, you kind of, deserve this, having attacked the Executive Mansion yesterday.

[Wion] That is not true; that claim is false. We have no reason to attack the Executive Mansion.

[White] Surely, you had every reason to attack the Executive Mansion. After all that, Taylor and Sankawolo had just gone there.

[Wion] Our forces never attacked the Executive Mansion, but as I said to you here, the Executive Mansion and the BTC are all in the same vicinity and when this thing started to happen, we saw civilians running from that direction and of course, our forces had no authorities to get closer to find out what was going on and they were constrained to make sure they put position so as to defend against the attack.

[White] Now, why doesn't Roosevelt Johnson just hand himself over to ECOMOG [Economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group] or to the United Nations and then all this trouble will be over?

[Wion] It is not necessary, Robin. That is not necessary. These people are just out for trouble. He will never hand himself over because he is not convinced that he commits crimes. Rather, they using him as a scapegoat to cause a lot of damage to this country. [end recording]

#### **Liberia: Factional Fighting Spreads to Diplomatic District**

*LD3004183596 Paris Radio France International in French 1730 GMT 30 Apr 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] On to the situation in Liberia, which seems to be getting worse this evening. We have just heard that fighting between factions spread to the diplomatic district of Mamba Point in Monrovia this afternoon, and that several people have already been killed. That is what AFP has reported.

Krahn fighters, who support General Roosevelt Johnson, seem to have had the upper hand this afternoon over the men of Charles Taylor and Alhaji Kromah, who are both members of the collegial presidency set up in accordance with the Abuja peace accords reached in August.

Again, several people are reported to have been killed in the latest fighting in Liberia.

The worsening of the situation has made the work of relief agencies even more difficult. They returned to the country after a truce was signed.

**Jose Benaventi**, a representative of the [French] non-governmental organization Action Contre la Faim [ACF], spoke to Adala Benraad from Monrovia this morning:

[Begin recording] [Benaventi] Fighting subsided somewhat last week. Nongovernmental organizations had returned to Monrovia and were trying to get organized to set up programs involving chlorine treatment of water to avoid cholera epidemics, and to resume nutrition and medical programs.

Everything was once again suspended late yesterday afternoon when fighting resumed in some areas in town. We believe it resumed at the training camp of Barclay, where fighting started nearly three weeks ago now.

[Benraad] Can you tell who resumed fighting?

[Benaventi] There are several theories. Some say that a group belonging to a faction opposed to the government reportedly attempted to take the presidency yesterday, which led to a resumption of fighting. Others say that people stuck inside the training camp attempted to leave and were then shot at. There are several theories, it is difficult to give a precise answer to this question. [end recording]

#### Liberia: 'Heavy Machine-Gun Fire' Heard Around BTC 1 May

*ABO105095296 Paris AFP in English  
0933 GMT 1 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Monrovia, May 1 (AFP) — Heavy machine-gun fire broke out in Monrovia at dawn on Wednesday [1 May] after a brief overnight calm, as factional fighting intensified in the Liberian capital. Shooting began around 4:00 a.m. (0400 GMT) around the Barclay Training Center [BTC] barracks, the center of heavy fighting since April 6.

US Marines killed three Liberians in an armed clash after the US embassy came under attack, US Secretary of State Warren Christopher said in Washington on Tuesday. It was the first time US Marines have been involved in a shooting incident in Monrovia.

The upsurge in fighting forced US Assistant Secretary of State for African affairs George Moose to spend the night in the US embassy in the Mamba Point district. He was due to leave Monrovia later Wednesday after failing to meet the country's key warlords the previous day.

due to the clashes. Fighting in the area pitted Krahn fighters loyal to "General" Roosevelt Johnson against supporters of warlords and co-presidents Charles Taylor and Alhaji Kromah.

The ceasefire followed two weeks of factional fighting and widespread violent looting sparked by the April 6 attempted arrest of Johnson on a murder charge. The crisis led the US military to evacuate over 2,000 US citizens and other foreign nationals.

#### Liberia: NPFL Leader Taylor Denies Involvement in BTC Attack

*ABO105094496 London BBC World Service in English 0630 GMT 1 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The last two days have seen increasing tension in Monrovia. First, the NPFL [National Patriotic Front of Liberia] leader, Charles Taylor, and the State Council chairman, Wilton Sankawolo, came under attack at the Executive Mansion. Then yesterday, there appeared to be a concerted attack on the Barclay Training Center, BTC, which serves as the base for Roosevelt Johnson's ULIMO-J [United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia-Johnson] fighters. Robin White asked Mr. Taylor if he was now waging all-out war on Johnson:

[Begin recording] [Taylor] No, we are not engaged in any direct action at BTC right now. We know where Mr. Johnson is (?holed up) around the BTC. We know where other elements have been coming out to bring fire on the streets by destroying buildings and killing people. So, what we are doing now, we are working our way to clean up the city, because the rules of the game (?that's) been followed by ECOMOG [Economic Community of West African States — ECOWAS — Cease-Fire Monitoring Group] restrict them from firing except they are threatened or fired at. So these people keep coming out of the barracks and are killing people, so what are going to do now is we are going to make sure that those individuals that are coming out of the barracks and causing trouble will not have the capacity to continue to do so.

[White] Have you given up any sort of compromising with the people on the BTC?

[Taylor] Well, look this is a government, Robin, when you have IRA terrorists, holding British nationals in a complex, and then you gonna talk about giving up and try to compromise? The compromise is for Mr. Johnson to surrender to government authority or to some competent authority as we said before whether it is ECOWAS or the OAU. This government cannot be in a position where Mr. Johnson continues to fight, kill

people, come out and attack the Council of State, while we are at our offices, and then everyone looks for the government to compromise. No government can exist with any muscle or any credibility at this level.

[White] Was it not a bit embarrassing for you to have to flee the Executive Mansion as you did?

[Taylor] No, we did not flee. We had to be brought to safety. The council was there. It was indeed curious to me that the people who said they wanted peace, and after all the West African diplomats have negotiated with government a cease-fire, only to find out that those that were supposed to be cordoned off in the barracks, managed to slip through ECOMOG lines with artillery and guns to try to kill and destroy the head of state and the head of government. I think it deserves some international condemnation. We tested the sincerity yesterday and now we know, and the world must know, these people are not sincere and had not succeeded. I guess that the whole world would have been (?informed) by now. [end recording]

#### **Liberia: Boley 'Certain' Positive Solution to Conflict Can Be Found**

**BR3004142896 Paris LIBERATION in French**  
**30 Apr 96 p 9**

[Interview with Liberian Peace Council President George Boley by Jean Quatremer; place and date not given: "Liberia: 'Taylor Wants To Seize Power by Force of Arms'" — first two paragraphs are LIBERATION introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] The fragile cease-fire concluded on 19 April after 15 days of fighting and pillaging was disturbed during the night from Sunday [28 April] to Monday by shots in the area around the Barclay camp in Monrovia. This barracks still contains a large number of fighters belonging to the Liberian Peace Council (LPC) and the ULIMO-Krahn [United Liberation Movement of Liberia for Democracy]. In turn, the latter took up their arms again yesterday, trying to attack the presidential palace where Charles Taylor and Alhaji Kromah, two faction leaders belonging to the joint presidency had just met for the first time in three weeks.

George Boley, the chairman of the LPC and himself an ethnic Krahn, is the vice president of the Liberian "State Council" set up on 1 September 1995. He has been touring Africa and Europe since 22 March and was taken by surprise by the resumption of the civil war in his country. He answered LIBERATION's questions before leaving for Ghana where a meeting of reconciliation will be held on 7 and 8 May.

[Quatremer] How do you explain this eruption of violence over the last few weeks?

[Boley] It is a long story.... Without going back too far, the current events are the result of action taken by two men acting alone. The State Council was set up six months ago when two of its six members — Alhaji Kromah, the leader of ULIMO, and Charles Taylor, the leader of the "National Patriotic Front of Liberia" (NPLF) — decided in the name of the Council but without its consent to arrest General Roosevelt Johnson, the head of ULIMO, for murder (but did not succeed — LIBERATION editor's note). Taylor and Kromah dressed their troops in government uniforms in an attempt to make people believe that government troops were involved. By acting in this way they made a serious miscalculation which led to acts of destruction and genocide.

[Quatremer] Did your men, almost all of whom are ethnic Krahn, fight for ethnic or political reasons?

[Boley] In no instance for ethnic reasons. Our organization comprises several ethnic groups, as does Charles Taylor's party by the way. The fighting took place for political reasons, because we are extremely worried that Taylor might succeed in seizing power by force of arms, because that is what he wants. We have tried to set up a democratic political system, with free elections and a free economy. Taylor wants nothing of the kind. Since 1989 he has had arms and he wants to succeed in rising to power by using them. We must resist this scenario.

[Quatremer] Nonetheless the impression is that this is an ethnic war...

[Boley] And yet it is wrong. The war started in 1989 when Taylor invaded the country with 700 men from the Burkinabe Army. It is a case of an invasion by foreign troops, not an ethnic war. That is something that the international community is refusing to recognize.

[Quatremer] Are you satisfied with the intervention force of the Economic Community of West African Countries?

[Boley] These troops arrived in Liberia in 1990 when nobody wanted to come. They made sacrifices to help us solve our problems and we cannot reproach them for anything. But we still hope that the international community will give them the necessary support to enable them to show what they are capable of. They have not been able to protect the people against criminals and they let Taylor's rebels enter Monrovia and take up arms. So they did not do what they were assigned to do.

[Quatremer] Does the cease-fire seem solid to you?

[Boley] It is an arrangement concluded between the Americans and Measrs. Taylor and Khroma. They should remain quiet as long as the U.S. delegation stays in Monrovia. However, the cease-fire is fragile, because the Khran are still encircled in their barracks. Everything could flare up again at the slightest spark.

[Quatremer] Is it possible to resolve this conflict?

[Boley] A meeting has been planned for all the parties in Accra, Ghana, on 7 and 8 May. The situation must return to normal. Everybody must be disarmed and elections must be held as quickly as possible. I am certain that a positive solution to this conflict will be found and that the people will be able to reconstruct their lives.

[Quatremer] Does a "positive solution" mean the elimination of Charles Taylor?

[Boley] A solution can be found with the cooperation of Charles Taylor and without having to resort to his physical elimination. Everything must be done to ensure that he is part of the solution. It is true that wars like the one ravaging Liberia cannot be resolved that easily. Liberia is no exception, but this argument must not be used as an alibi to prolong things.

### Nigeria:

#### Nigeria: Lagos Accuses Cameroon of Attack on Disputed Peninsula

*AB3004173696 Paris AFP in English  
1717 GMT 30 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lagos, April 30 (AFP) — Nigeria Tuesday [30 April] accused Cameroon of staging an attack on the disputed Bakassi peninsula with gunboats and heavy artillery.

The Defense Ministry said the attack on Nigerian troops occurred Friday and was the fourth in a week. It did not say if there were casualties.

Since January 1994 Nigeria and Cameroon have both stationed troops on the peninsula, a territory of 1,000 square kilometres (400 square miles) in the Gulf of Guinea that is rich in oil and fish.

The countries asked the International Court of Justice to mediate, and in late March of this year the court called on both sides to pull back to positions they had held before February 3.

In clashes on the peninsula in February, four Nigerians were killed and 13 were injured on the Nigerian side, according to Nigerian press reports. Cameroon radio said there was one dead on each side.

The Nigerian defense ministry spokesman, General Fred Chijuka, called the latest attack "useless and senseless."

He said it was in "utter disregard" for the World Court ruling and for a ceasefire agreement reached on February 17.

"It should be stressed that the desire to promote peace by Nigerian Armed Forces does not in any way reduce its capability to respond decisively to all the acts of aggression and intransigency on the part of Cameroonian Armed Forces and government", Chijuka said in a statement.

The statement urged the world community to hold Cameroon responsible for "any breakdown of law and order" in the disputed peninsula.

#### Nigeria: Cameroon Warned Against 'Unprovoked Attacks' in Bakassi

*AB3004200096 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network in English 1800 GMT 30 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nigeria has again warned Cameroon to desist from carrying out unprovoked attacks on Nigeria's territory (?still) in the Bakassi Peninsula. The fresh warning followed the latest attack by Cameroonian soldiers on the peninsula. A statement by the Defense Headquarters today in Lagos reiterates Nigeria's desire to promote peace in the West African subregion in particular and the world in general.

It warned that this would not reduce Nigeria's capability to (?respond decisively) to all acts of aggression from Cameroonian soldiers. The Defense Headquarters, therefore, urged the international community to hold Cameroon responsible for any breakdown of law and order in the peninsula.

#### Nigeria: 277 Persons Arrested at Nigeria-Benin Border During Closure

*AB0105101996 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network in English 0600 GMT 1 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Now, 277 persons were arrested by the Nigerian Immigration Service for entering the country illegally through Owode and Seme borders during the closure of Nigeria's border with Benin Republic. The comptroller of immigration for the area, Alhaji Muktar Usman, gave the information in an interview in Lagos. He said that 15 diplomats were allowed to pass through the border during the period after they had obtained clearance from Abuja.

The Nigeria-Benin border was closed by Beninois authorities ahead of that country's presidential elections while Nigeria complied by closing her side of the border for security reasons. The borders have since they reopened following a meeting between President

**Mathieu Kerekou of Benin Republic and the head of state, General Sani Abacha in Abuja.**

**Nigeria: Rivers State Security Chief Denies Arrests, Intimidation Allegation**

**AB3004205096 Lagos TELL in English 29 Apr 96 p 18**

[Interview with Obi Umahi, ISF commander, by Stepp Off; place and date not given: "There Is Peace in Ogoniland"—first paragraph is TELL introduction.]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Obi Umahi, a major and commander of the notorious Rivers State Internal Security Forces, ISF, denies allegation of arrests and intimidation of Ogoni leaders.

(Offi) There an allegation that you went to Mr. Ledum Mitee's house, put him in your car and threatened him over mobilising people to see the UN team on a fact-finding mission to the country?

(U mahi) They have told the whole world all tissues of lies to whip up sentiments that will cause them to be getting blood money. And now that the UN fact-finding team is here they want to do everything possible to show that these lies they have been telling them is true. So Mitee can make allegations but if you investigate a little you'll find out that they are unfounded, they have no foundation, they are baseless. I was thinking that he will continue to repeat their earlier lies that the entire Ogoniland is an aridland, there is scorched earth policy in Ogoniland and that everywhere is charged with crude oil. So, now that the team is here, they know that such allegations can't be sustained. They are diverting attention. That's the issue.

(Offi) Is this question of your visiting his house part of the tactics to divert attention?

(U mahi) That is true. That is bull shit. It is rubbish. It is unfounded.

(Offi) But is it true that members of your task force made some arrests in Ogoniland to prevent the people from reaching the UN team?

(U mahi) One, how are we supposed to know who is going to see members of the UN team? We are not magicians. Are you implying that MOSOP gave us a list of those who want to see the UN team and then we went into arrests? Some newspapers alleged, not too long ago, that all IS troops have been withdrawn from Ogoniland. In another breath they said that IS men have started arresting — at where - is it in Port Harcourt or in Ogoniland? If they've withdrawn, why are they arresting. So, all those things... I tell you is (sic) just diversionary tactics.

(Offi) Are your men still in Ogoni?

(U mahi) Just the way we were is the way we are.

(Offi) How many of your men are in Ogoni?

(U mahi) Well, one is that the IS is not only in Ogoniland. It is in many parts of Rivers State, including Degema, including Brass, including Tombia, including Risonpalm, Ubima: including Delta Rubber, Okomoko, including Oyigbo local government, Ndoki, the total number of IS troops in Ogoniland is not up to 60. I can assure you this. Let me tell you something - I am a child of God. I am a born-again Christian - I do not tell lies... okay? Because I seek the face of God in everything I do. So, that is why it baffles me. Ledum is my friend. I visit his house, he comes to my house and it is very embarrassing that he will turn around and tell lies against me. It is very very unfortunate and it is something I cannot... You see, it is inexplicable. It is nothing understandable by any stretch of imagination. How one can just get up and start telling lies. It is most disheartening.

(Offi) But on January 4 this year, did you give any orders that anytime he and his younger brother, Barton, want to travel to Ogoniland, they should seek clearance from you, perhaps to provide security for their safety?

(U mahi) I think this is an already over flogged issue. I've said it, time and again, that we understood through intelligence security report, that Ledum was billed to address an illegal gathering of youths on Ogoni Day - January 4th. Incidentally, he was supposed to address them, according to the information we got, with white men and pressmen, with proper security coverage. They said he did not show up. And because he did not show up they said that that was not the only item he had led them out and abandoned them. And that they were out to even it up with him. And I told him that well the choice was his. And they said they preferred the option that we gave them and that was it. So, I mean what is the big deal about it! You see, why we were particular about them was that in the past, MOSOP had made sweeping allegation against the government. There was Ndoki/Ogoni war, there was Andoni/Ogoni war. They engaged their neighbours in inter tribal wars. Today, they've been telling the whole world that the federal troops destroyed part of their land or that their houses were destroyed by the other combatants. They've not told the world who destroyed all those things that were destroyed in Ndoki, in Okrika, so it is not the first time we are facing this kind of lies.

(Offi) Would you please say what the situation is now in Ogoniland? Is it now more peaceful than it was after the murder of the Ogoni four?

(Umahi) At least, we thank God that you recognise that some four men were killed. It is not a case of Ogoniland without Ogoni four. The truth is that there is peace in Ogoniland. The only problem that exists in Ogoniland at any point in time is the one packaged from outside and brought in by dubious people. That's all.

(Offi) Who are these dubious people?

(Umahi) You use your tongue and count your teeth then you will know.

#### Nigeria: Article—Fear Gripping Barracks Following Bomb Explosion

*AB3004200296 Lagos TELL in English 29 Apr 96 p 16*

[Article by Uche Maduemesi: "Fear Grips the Barracks"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A bomb explosion in Ikeja Cantaments, killing at least one person, has triggered off security alert in all Nigerian military formations.

Military authorities continued investigations last week to unravel the masterminds of the Saturday, April 13 bomb explosion at the Ikeja Military Cantaments, Lagos. Already, security agents have questioned many eyewitnesses, including patrons of the 'Mammy Market', where the bomb detonated, killing at least one person. About five persons were also reported to have been seriously injured.

Sources said last week that the military authority were especially jolted by the blast which it regarded as terrorist attack. Ikeja Cantoment is one of the main military formations of the new Chief Army Staff, Major-General Ishaya Bamaiyi. The military high command may be working on the theory that is dealing with a fifth column within its ranks, said a source.

Sources said the bomb was allegedly planted underneath a car within the Mammy Market.' Four vehicles, including one belonging to the National Electric Power Authority, NEPA, were wrecked by the explosion. a team of experts, TELL gathered, has been deployed immediately to unravel the source and the nature of the blast. Pieces of shrapnel and other fragments have been recovered from the place to help find a clue.

The blast was said to have jolted the authorities considerably when the news got to Rock Villa, Abuja. A grim-faced Bamaiyi visited the Barracks last Monday in company of some other military officials. Security has been beefed up in and around the barracks with soldiers manning all the entry points scrutinizing and physically searching everyone leaving or entering. Since the explo-

sion, military authorities, TELL learnt, have been holding series of meetings aimed at beefing up security in the barracks and other military formations throughout the country.

According to a source, the army may resort to weeding its barracks of civilian residents and retired personnel who are still occupying their last official quarters. In Ikeja Cantaments for instance, more than 600 of such soldiers still reside within the barracks and the story is similar in all the barracks nationwide.

But, an army officer who spoke to TELL said that the retirees are not the sole problem. It will be recalled that a similar explosion rocked the Command Children School at the Sani Abacha Barracks, Abuja on the 24 of November 1994, injuring more than 10 pupils. close to one and a half years after, no clue has been established by the military.

However, since the beginning of the year many bomb blasts had been recorded. In Kano, in the wake of the presidential plane crash which claimed the lives of Ibrahim Abacha son of the head of the junta and 13 others, an explosion rocked the lounge of the Malam Aminu Kano International Airport on January 17, 1996. The previous day in Kaduna, a bomb had exploded at Durbar Hotel killing one man alleged to have planted it. Like in all bomb-related cases, the government has not been able to, unravel any. Mallam Isiaka Abdullah, a Kano-based businessman, while speaking to TELL, posited that their inability to unravel the causes or at least make their findings public implicates the military itself. "They are the only distributors of such wares," he said.

#### Nigeria: Lagos Calls For Expanded Relations With Romania

*AB0105083696 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network in English 0600 GMT 1 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nigeria has called for the expansion of her relations with Romania. The minister of information and culture, Dr. Walter Ofonagoro, made the call in Lagos when the charge d'affaires of the Romanian Embassy in Nigeria, Dr. Emil (Raphsia), paid him a courtesy visit.

Dr. Ofonagoro expressed satisfaction with the relations between the two countries in more than 30 years. He, however, called on Romania to buy more Nigerian products to correct the trade imbalance between them. The minister used the occasion to call on friendly nations to stand by Nigeria in the face of calculated attempt to tarnish her image.

Earlier, Dr. (Raphsia) had expressed satisfaction with the relations between Nigeria and Romania. He commended Nigeria's role in the restoration of peace in parts of the world.

### Sierra Leone

#### Sierra Leone: Presidential Affairs Minister on Yamoussoukro Meeting

AB2604113096 London BBC World Service in English 0630 GMT 26 Apr 96

[From the "Network Africa" program hosted by Rick Wells]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Wells] Certainly, there had been some optimistic noises following the latest Sierra Leonean peace talks between the government and the RUF [Revolutionary United Front] rebels there in Yamoussoukro. President Kabbah arrived home yesterday and told a press conference he had no doubt that the RUF rebel leader, Foday Sankoh, was really tired of war. On the line to Freetown, Pete Lewinstein asked Momodu Koromah, minister of presidential affairs, what the talks had achieved:

[Begin recording] [Momodu] The talks were a significant breakthrough, because for the very first time, we had an agenda for the talks and that agenda was adhered to strictly. Secondly, we agreed to a continuous cessation of hostilities that would create a climate of confidence between the Government of Sierra Leone and the RUF. Thirdly, we agreed to form three committees that would be looking at certain relevant issues that would build up to a peace agreement. Firstly, there is a committee on the peace accord. Secondly, there is a committee on encampment and disarmament of combatants and thirdly, there is a committee on demobilization and resettlement of combatants.

[Lewinstein] When do you think these committees will be meeting then?

[Momodu] Well, we were planning to return to Ivory Coast on Monday [29 April] to have the committees working because according to the communique, the committees should actually be reporting to a plenary session in two weeks' time but because of a public holiday on Monday I think we will be returning a little after Monday and the talks will start after that.

[Lewinstein] Where is this leading to? Are you leading to a full peace agreement or what is the plan, what is the long-term plan then?

[Momodu] Well, the long-term plan, of course, is a full peace agreement. In fact, it is stated in the communique that both the Government of Sierra Leone, led by His

Excellency the President, Alhaji Ahmed Tejan Kabbah, and the RUF reaffirmed their commitment to a just and lasting peace in the country and to a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

[Lewinstein] Do you think that you can trust the RUF?

[Momodu] Well, there have been so many incidents in the past. There have been so many things happening in the past that would give us a fair amount of hesitation, as far as trusting the RUF is concerned, but I think we are now in the process of building confidence in each other. We have done quite a number of things that have made the relationship between us and the RUF fairly cordial now. We are now behaving as Sierra Leoneans talking to each other and they are opening up and we are also opening up. We are beginning to learn quite more about them. So, I think there is a bit of confidence coming in and we are beginning to trust them.

[Lewinstein] What about the relationship between the president and the RUF leader Foday Sankoh? Foday Sankoh told us just a couple of days ago that he quite liked the president as a fellow Sierra Leonean.

[Momodu] Well, that is quite right because initially, I mean when we went for the talks, Fodah Sankoh started with some kind of hostility as he was doing in the past but I think after talking to the president for a while and after interacting with the president for a while, he came to like the president and you cannot believe it, but they had a two-hour session, one-to-one session and after which it was all smiles and exchange of cordialities. [end recording]

#### Sierra Leone: New Government Adopts Measures To Curb Corruption

AB2904165796 London BBC World Service in English 1505 GMT 29 Apr 96

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Members of Sierra Leone's new civilian government have been in office for a month now but they are finally getting to grips with the true scale of the job ahead. But they are finding that large areas of the public service simply do not function the way they are supposed, as our correspondent Victor Silver reports in this telex from Freetown:

Investigations have shown that people within State House were guilty of abusing their privileged positions. Indeed, State House alone owes more than 100 million Leones in unpaid telephone bills and this has finally galvanized the authorities into instituting a number of new measures. From now on, all government officials will have to keep a careful account for audit purposes

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of all the numbers they call, along with the purpose and duration of the call and whether it was in the interest of the public. One observer noted that although the new civilian administration is reluctant to start anything that might be interpreted as a witch-hunt, the level of corruption is so high that the new administration has to take these unpleasant but vital steps if it is to live up to

the expectations of what he called a people in a hurry. Meanwhile, newspapers here have been carrying stories of government functionaries importing juju men from neighboring Guinea, Mali, and The Gambia to assist in the process of gaining favor with the new government.

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